



North West Water Authority

Dawson House, Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LW
Telephone Penketh 4321

LOCAL

28th April, 1975.

TO: Members of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Fisheries Advisory Committee (Messrs. J.M. Croft (Chairman); W. Bailey; R. Barratt; R.A. Challenor; C.H. Cheetham; J.H. Fell; A.L. Harris; L. Hill; Major N.J. Clarkson Webb; Dr. J.V. Dyer; and the Chairman of the Authority (P.J. Liddell); the Vice-Chairman of the Authority (T. Hourigan); and the Chairman of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee (J.R.S. Watson) - ex. Officio).

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the Lune, Wyre and Furness Fisheries Advisory Committee will be held at 2.30 p.m. on MONDAY, 5TH MAY, 1975, at the SOUTH CUMBRIA AREA OFFICE of the RIVERS DIVISION, BEATHWAITE, LEVENS, KENDAL, for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully,

R. E. WOODWARD,

Director of Administration.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated).
3. Fishery Byelaws - Proposed New Code.
4. Tour of Inspection.
5. Timetable of Meetings.
6. Eel Trapping.
7. Unit Fisheries Officer's Report on Fisheries Activities.
8. Licence Duties.
9. Importation of Live Freshwater Fish.
10. Any Other Business.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYLUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE5TH MAY, 1975FISHERY BYELAWS - PROPOSED NEW CODE

1. At their meeting held on 29th April, 1974, the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee appointed a Working Party of officers with the following terms of reference:-

"That the officers review the existing Fishery Byelaws operating within the Authority's area and prepare a draft combined code for consideration by this Committee."

2. The Regional Committee at the meeting held on 24th February, 1975, agreed that in the first instance the Local Committees should have the opportunity of considering the code and making observations to the Regional Committee.
3. Accordingly on 26th March, 1975, copies of a draft combined code produced by the Working Party were circulated to all the members of Local Fisheries Advisory Committees inviting comments for the consideration of the respective Committee.
4. Mr. J.H. Fell has referred to previous misunderstandings regarding the expression which occurs in several of the byelaws:-

"The period between date A and date B".

One example being proposed byelaw 18(a) which reads as follows:-

"No person shall use a gaff in connection with fishing by rod and line during the period between the 30th day of September and the 1st day of May following".

5. Mr. Fell has knowledge of instances where the public, and the police, in interpreting this expression have been under the misapprehension that the specific dates referred to were included in the period of prohibition.
6. Mr. Fell suggests that the following wording could be more easily understood:-

"No person shall use a gaff in connection with fishing by rod and line during the period from and including the 1st October until and including the 30th April, following".

7. For the first draft, the officers incorporated the expression "the period from A to B, both dates inclusive". However, the Ministry in their Notes of Guidance on the drafting of byelaws, used the expression "the period between etc." which follows the wording of the Acts, and it was therefore felt by the officers that it would be appropriate to follow the advice of the Minister.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5TH MAY, 1975

TOUR OF INSPECTION

1. The Tour of Inspection of the Committee's area will be held on Tuesday, 17th June, 1975.
2. The itinerary has yet to be arranged and members are asked to indicate if there are any localities or waters which they consider would be of particular interest to visit.
3. The Unit Fisheries Officer is of the opinion that a visit to the reaches of the River Lune above Tebay would be of value.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYLUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE5TH MAY, 1975TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS, 1975-76

1. The Policy and Resources Committee at a meeting held on 10th March, 1975, considered a draft Timetable of Meetings of the Authority, Committees and Sub-Committees for the "Authority Year" from June, 1975 to June, 1976.
2. The draft was approved for submission to the Authority for consideration, in accordance with Rule 1(3), at the Annual Meeting to be held on 23rd June, 1975.
3. The proposed timetable for the Regional and Local Fisheries Advisory Committee meetings is submitted as an appendix hereto for the information of members.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEETIMETABLE OF MEETINGS, 1975-76

<u>Fisheries Advisory Committee</u>	<u>Date and Time of Meeting</u>
South and West Cumberland	2.30 p.m. Tuesday - 24th June, 1975.
Eden and District	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 25th June, 1975.
Lune, Wyre and Furness	2.30 p.m. Monday - 30th June, 1975.
South Lancashire	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 2nd July, 1975.
Mersey and Weaver	2.30 p.m. Monday - 7th July, 1975.
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday - 21st July, 1975.
South and West Cumberland	2.30 p.m. Monday - 13th October, 1975.
Eden and District	2.30 p.m. Tuesday - 14th October, 1975.
South Lancashire	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 15th October, 1975.
Lune, Wyre and Furness	2.30 p.m. Monday - 20th October, 1975.
Mersey and Weaver	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 22nd October, 1975.
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday - 3rd November, 1975.
South and West Cumberland	2.30 p.m. Monday - 12th January, 1976.
Eden and District	2.30 p.m. Tuesday - 13th January, 1976.
South Lancashire	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 14th January, 1976.
Lune, Wyre and Furness	2.30 p.m. Monday - 19th January, 1976.
Mersey and Weaver	2.30 p.m. Tuesday - 20th January, 1976.
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday - 9th February, 1976.
South and West Cumberland	2.30 p.m. Monday - 5th April, 1976.
Eden and District	2.30 p.m. Tuesday - 6th April, 1976.
Lune, Wyre and Furness	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 7th April, 1976.
Mersey and Weaver	2.30 p.m. Monday - 12th April, 1976.
South Lancashire	2.30 p.m. Wednesday - 14th April, 1976.
REGIONAL	2.15 p.m. Monday - 3rd May, 1976.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5TH MAY, 1975

EEL TRAPPING

1. Requests to trap eels by fyke netting in the Lune Estuary have been received from Mr. W. Bailey, 10 Mallowdale Road, Seale Hall, Lancaster and Mr. J. Cottam, 21 The Esplanade, Fleetwood.
2. The Unit Fisheries Officer is of the opinion that subject to certain conditions and modifications to the fyke nets he will be able to recommend the use of the nets for a trial period.
3. The Unit Fisheries Officer will bring a fyke net to the meeting in order to provide members with a clear picture of the proposals.

LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE5th MAY, 1975UNIT FISHERIES OFFICERS REPORT ON FISHERIES ACTIVITIES1. Coarse Fish Salvage and Stocking

- (1) The removal of coarse fish from Terrybank Tarn was repeated, although significantly fewer fish were caught by the gill nets this year. 17 Pike, 2 Roach and 2 Perch were removed and transferred to ponds at Barrow-in-Furness.
- (2) 14 Pike were removed from the River Lune at Melling and introduced into the Lancaster Canal.

2. Fisheries Management

Ova and fry development have been successful at Middleton Hatchery and losses have been lower than normal. Distribution of eyed ova in artificial redds has now been completed and distribution of unfed fry is nearly complete. The fry which are being retained for feeding are healthy and feeding well. A new type of high fat content salmon starter food is being tried this year. This food has better floating qualities than its predecessor.

3. Poaching

There has been no organised poaching detected so far this year.

4. Fish Mortalities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nos</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Cause</u>
25-31/3/75	Ulverston Canal	70+	Common Carp	Suspected Spring Viraemia

500 3" to 5" Common Carp from Holland were introduced to the Canal on 14th December, 1974.

An attempt is being made to obtain specimens of live diseased fish for tests at the M.A.F.F. Fish Diseases Laboratory at Weymouth.

5. Migratory Fish Runs

The tables below show the total numbers of fish passing through the counting stations in the Lune, Wyre and Furness areas during 1974.

Forge Weir - River Lune

	(20" +) <u>Monthly Total</u>	<u>Cumulative Total</u>
January	107	107
February	112	219
March	49	268
April	50	318
May	147	465
June	820	1285
July	2022	3307

	(20" +) Monthly Total	Cumulative Total
August	1745	5052
September	648	5700
October	690	6390
November	459	6749
December	50	6799

Broadrairie-River Lune

	Salmon (20" +)		Sea Trout (16"-20")	
	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total
March	0	0	4	4
April	1	1	16	20
May	2	3	28	48
June	95	98	154	202
July	136	234	107	309
August	104	338	39	348
September	282	620	227	575
October (to 15th) - Salmon trapped	153	773 (to 15th)-	110	685
October 15th-31st	170	943		
November	75	1018		
December	10	1028		

Haverthwaite-River Leven

	Salmon (20" +)		Sea Trout (16"-20")	
	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total	Monthly Total	Cumulative Total
May	11	11	4	4
June	22	33	25	29
July	98	131	92	121
August	36	167	18	139
September	73	240	88	227
October	33	273	10	237
November	33	306	21	258
December	1	307	0	258

6. Catch Returns, 1974

Attached, as Appendix 1 to this report, is a table detailing the Rod and Net catch returns for the Lancashire River Unit Area for 1974, with comparative figures for 1973 shown in brackets.

7. Prosecutions for Fishing Offences

Attached, as Appendix 2 to this report, are the details of prosecutions processed by the Lancashire River Unit during the period 1st April, 1974 to 31st March, 1975.

8. Spawning, 1974

High water during the whole of the spawning season made redd counting very difficult. In the smaller rivers and streams good stocks of spawning salmon and sea trout could be observed. Generally the effect of U.D.N. on spawning was less than in the previous years despite the

large numbers of fish present. It seems likely that the large floods after the spawning season may have washed out some redds,

9. Biological Work

- (1) The first stage of an investigation into the survival and dispersal of artificially propagated salmon fry has been completed. The results conflict with previous experience in that little downstream dispersal of fry was found, and it has therefore been decided to repeat the experiment on a larger scale.
- (2) A survey of the trout fishery at Crosslands Tarn has been carried in order to assist the Prince Albert Angling Club to produce a realistic stocking policy.
- (3) Work was continued on obtaining information for assessment of the biological effects of the Lune-Wyre transfer, and a new method of collecting quantitative substrate samples using expanded metal boxes is now in use.
- (4) Work has continued on the biological monitoring of the effects of the Kendal Flood Prevention Scheme.

10. Broadrairie

The numerous spates during winter have caused an accretion of gravel to develop above the sluice intakes at the Broadrairie Counter. Work is being put in hand by the Land Drainage Department to remove the gravel and construct a short groyne to prevent a recurrence of this problem.

11. River Leven Works

Approval has been obtained, from land owners concerned, for the construction of fishery works Nos. 4,5,6,9,10,11, on Drawing No. 806, Sheet 7 (a copy of which will be available for inspection at the meeting). Approval has also been obtained for access for plant and materials. In the case of work No. 2 on the above-mentioned drawing the owner of the river bed at this site, Mr. J.O. Croasdale, Bridge End House, Haverthwaite is opposed to the construction of a permanent weir.

The proposed works require planning approval and drawings have been submitted to the appropriate authority.

LANCASHIRE RIVER UNIT

NET CATCH RETURNS - 1974

River	Type of Net	Month	Grilse		Salmon		Sea Trout	
			No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight
LUNE	Heave	April	3	14½	14	153	11	47½
		May	7	25½	110	1185½	199	731½
		June	86	445½	127	1415	804	2516
		July	260	1547½	134	1564	331	1054
		August	120	728½	104	1030½	5	13½
		476 (281)	2762 (1529½)	489 (424)	5348½ (4393)	1350 (955)	4362½ (2777½)	
LUNE	Hang	April	-	-	3	33	1	7
		May	-	-	42	477½	43	228½
		June	33	187½	80	937½	109	558½
		July	1050	6370½	283	2848½	90	450½
		August	596	3063½	369	3417½	7	52
		1679 (589)	9622 (3408½)	777 (1062)	7714½ (9683½)	250 (198)	1296½ (977)	
LUNE	Draw	April	-	-	-	-	-	-
		May	1	6½	2	23½	4	14½
		June	2	11½	4	44½	10	35½
		July	26	159	12	141½	15	48½
		August	17	107	1	12	-	-
		46 (14)	283½ (78)	19 (24)	221½ (277½)	29 (27)	98½ (81½)	
LUNE	All Nets	Total	2201 (884)	12667½ (5015½)	1285 (1510)	13284½ (14353½)	1629 (1180)	5757½ (3836)
RIBBLE	Hang	March	-	-	-	-	-	-
		April	-	-	1	10	-	-
		May	-	-	12	140	-	-
		June	1	4	44	511	1	6½
		July	66	444½	182	1878½	-	-
	August	55	370½	305	2787½	-	-	
		122 (39)	819 (239½)	544 (479)	5327 (4881)	1 (11)	6½ (74½)	
KENT	Lave	April	-	-	-	-	-	-
		May	-	-	2	18½	-	-
		June	16	97½	16	171½	-	-
		July	73	407	38	419	7	36½
		August	13	72	5	46½	2	10
		102 (96)	576½ (539½)	61 (70)	655½ (638½)	9 (20)	46½ (103½)	
LEVEN	Lave	April	-	-	1	8	-	-
		May	-	-	-	-	-	-
		June	10	56½	27	260½	4	17½
		July	44	257½	51	468½	10	42½
		August	24	136½	54	509	10	55
		78 (46)	450½ (252½)	133 (63)	1246 (620)	24 (7)	115½ (39)	
DUDDON	Draw	April	-	-	-	-	-	-
		May	-	-	-	-	-	-
		June	-	-	-	-	-	-
		July	4	21½	-	-	54	202
		August	28	186½	19	227½	79	344½
1973 Figures shown in brackets			32 (2)	207½ (12½)	19 (7)	227½ (66)	133 (42)	546½ (130)

LANCASHIRE RIVER UNIT

SALMON ROD CATCH RETURNS 1974

RIVER	FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		TOTAL 1974		TOTAL 1973	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Lune	4	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	20	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	789 $\frac{1}{2}$	192	1310	325	2722 $\frac{1}{4}$	143	1333 $\frac{1}{2}$	810	6424 $\frac{1}{2}$	532	5083 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ribble	8	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	204	9	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	143 $\frac{1}{4}$	35	375 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	704	166	1326	308	2563 $\frac{1}{4}$	245	2009 $\frac{3}{4}$	888	7534 $\frac{1}{2}$	359	3293 $\frac{3}{4}$
Leven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	10	61	27	197 $\frac{3}{4}$	57	437 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	741 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kent	2	14	3	36	-	-	1	8	7	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	466 $\frac{1}{4}$	80	497 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	511 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	86 $\frac{3}{4}$	224	1666 $\frac{1}{4}$	185	1342 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	20 $\frac{3}{4}$	-	-	4	20 $\frac{3}{4}$	18	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Keer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duddon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	4	27	5	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	92 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	75
Wyre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	401 $\frac{3}{4}$	40	218	136	775 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	176
Miscellaneous - Northern Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
	14	138 $\frac{3}{4}$	26	312 $\frac{3}{4}$	11	150 $\frac{3}{4}$	13	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	63	540 $\frac{1}{2}$	291	2065 $\frac{3}{4}$	490	3471 $\frac{1}{2}$	814	6683 $\frac{1}{2}$	451	3724	2173	17256	1150	10115 $\frac{3}{4}$

LANCASHIRE RIVER UNIT

SEA TROUT ROD CATCH RETURNS 1974

RIVER	MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		TOTAL 1974		TOTAL 1973	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Lune	73	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	186	305 $\frac{3}{4}$	625	1132 $\frac{3}{4}$	893	1502 $\frac{3}{4}$	527	877 $\frac{3}{4}$	194	309 $\frac{1}{4}$	2498	4240 $\frac{3}{4}$	2749	4212 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ribble	5	5	28	61	161	309 $\frac{1}{2}$	243	422 $\frac{3}{4}$	159	340	32	83 $\frac{1}{4}$	628	1221 $\frac{1}{2}$	540	896
Leven	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	42	149	241	200	281 $\frac{1}{4}$	126	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	75 $\frac{3}{4}$	545	803	607	775 $\frac{1}{4}$
Kent	19	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	86	193 $\frac{1}{2}$	120	226 $\frac{3}{4}$	63	141 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	306	611 $\frac{1}{2}$	589	1155 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	7	121	74 $\frac{3}{4}$
Keer	6	6	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	10	22	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	24	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	4	67	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	43	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
Duddon	-	-	-	-	12	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	36	46 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	47	9	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	79	133 $\frac{3}{4}$	58	110 $\frac{1}{4}$
Wyre	-	-	-	-	3	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	30	44	33	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	69	105	47	52
Miscellaneous - Northern Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	$\frac{3}{4}$	3	5	-	-	4	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	91	109 $\frac{3}{4}$
	106	143 $\frac{1}{4}$	259	437 $\frac{1}{4}$	1043	1917 $\frac{3}{4}$	1545	2555 $\frac{1}{4}$	963	1664	288	505	4204	7222 $\frac{1}{2}$	4845	7445 $\frac{3}{4}$

Total Number of Migratory Fish Returns

excluding Nil Returns = 778

Nil Returns = 581

1,359

Number of Returns as % of Total

$$= \frac{1,359}{10,830} \times 100 = \underline{12.5\%} \text{ (16\%)}$$

Percentage Returns for 1973 indicated
in brackets.

LANCASHIRE RIVER UNITPROSECUTIONS FOR FISHING OFFENCES1st APRIL, 1974 TO 31st MARCH, 1975

Attached is a statement giving brief details of prosecutions undertaken in respect of fishing offences in the area of the Unit which have been heard in the period 1st April, 1974 to 31st March, 1975.

The following table summaries the results over the year under review; as a matter of interest comparative figures for the last three years of the former River Authority are also given:-

	1974/5	1973/4	1972/3	1971/2
Number of Defendants	180	189	144	138
Number of Charges	267	254	193	185
Total Fines imposed	£2,167	£1,463	£1,294	£774
Total Costs awarded to Authority	£355	£200	£201	£92
Total Fees paid to Outside Solicitors (not including V.A.T. charges, recoverable)	£481	£405	£312	£219

Additionally, in the period from the 1st April, 1974 to 31st March, 1975 further cases involving 54 alleged offenders have been referred by the Fisheries Officer to the Administrative Section and have been investigated there, but where actual process has not been completed due to a variety of reasons: (a) the youth of the offenders, (b) doubts as to the adequacy of the available evidence, and (c) efforts to trace offenders giving false names and addresses to the bailiffs have not proved fruitful. All the cases under (a) and most of those under (b) have been dealt with by the issue of appropriate warning letters.

The Unit has followed the practice of utilising the procedure afforded by the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1957, to the maximum possible extent, in an endeavour to minimise recourse to the services of outside Solicitors, having regard to increases in their fees. For the record, of the 180 persons prosecuted since the 1st April, 1974, proceedings in 147 cases have been conducted under the 1957 Act, in 18 cases by Solicitors under full Brief prepared in the Unit, and in the remaining 15 cases (all in the Kendal Court, and mostly affecting juveniles) by Messrs. Temple & Bargh under primary instructions from the Unit. As a point of interest, in the cases taken under the 1957 Act the Unit failed to secure a conviction in only one case; the person involved was detected in a later offence and convicted on that occasion.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

LUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5TH MAY, 1975

LICENCE DUTIES

1. Members will have noted from the minutes of the Regional Committee, held on 24th February, 1975, that the Policy and Resources Committee were invited to recommend the Authority to approve the revised licensing structure as set out in the Appendix to those minutes.
2. It was also recommended that the Director of Administration be authorised to publish the proposals in accordance with the requirements of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1972, and to take such steps as may be found necessary, including representation at a Public Inquiry in the event of the lodging of objections to the proposals.
3. The Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting held on 10th March, 1975, recommended that the proposals be referred back to the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee for further consideration, this recommendation being approved by the Authority on 24th March, 1975.
4. Accordingly, the proposals will be considered further at the meeting of the Regional Committee to be held on 12th May, 1975.

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITYLUNE, WYRE AND FURNESS FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE5TH MAY, 1975IMPORTATION OF LIVE FRESHWATER FISH

1. Existing arrangements, which are to be revised on 1st April, 1975, provide little effective check upon, or control of, imports of live freshwater (coarse) fish (usually from the Continent), whether they be wild fish or fish supplied from fish farms. The main weakness of the present system of import licensing by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the absence of any satisfactory means of ensuring that a consignment of fish entering this country conforms to the particulars shown on the relevant import licence and health certificate. It is impossible in practice to ensure that the fish in the consignment are the same, in species and numbers, as is stated on the documents.
2. Customs Officers are not normally competent to recognise different species of fish, and the number of fish in a tank can only be reliably determined by an individual count during manual transfer from one tank to another. Consequently, provided that the documentation is in order, Customs tend to pass consignments of live fish through with a minimum of formality.
3. A number of instances have been reported where fish of species other than those listed on the import and health documents and sometimes of species which might be undesirable for introduction into the waters for which the consignment was destined - have been detected in consignments of imported fish. In other cases, mortalities have occurred among native freshwater fish some time after the introduction of allegedly healthy imported fish, and it is likely that the introduced fish were carriers of infection against which the indigenous stock had no resistance.
4. Within the past two years, the long-standing belief that Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN), a virus disease, was specific to salmonid fish has been shown to be incorrect as a result of the discovery by the Weymouth Fish Pathology Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the disease can occur, and cause mortality, in roach and other coarse fish. In the light of this discovery, the Director of the Laboratory thinks it possible that coarse fish may be capable of carrying other virus infections of salmonids and further work in this direction is obviously an urgent necessity.
5. For many years there has been a total ban on the import of live salmonid fish into Britain. This prohibition has undoubtedly contributed, more than any other single factor, to the almost complete freedom of the indigenous wild and cultivated stocks of salmonids from the various infectious diseases which occur on the continent of Europe. Nor has the prohibition of imports resulted in any dearth of trout for stocking waters. If anything, their production has been stimulated to the point where large numbers of healthy fish are produced and sold annually.

6. Against this background it is difficult to understand why the importation of live coarse fish has continued to be permitted, particularly as such fish apparently represent a potential threat to native stocks of coarse and salmonid fish alike.
7. From 1st April, 1975, the importation of live wild coarse fish will be prohibited, although imports from fish farms will be permitted under licence by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Issue of this licence will depend upon routine checks on broodstock for certain specific diseases having been carried out regularly over a period of two years immediately prior to importation. Where compliance with this requirement and the consequent probable freedom of the fish from such diseases is certified under the official Government stamp of the country of origin (as opposed to the signature of a local veterinary officer - or even of the supplier of fish - as has sufficed hitherto), the appropriate health certificate will be accepted, an import licence issued, and the fish will be allowed to enter this country.
8. This arrangement is an improvement on the existing procedure, but it does not alter the fact that a farm may draw its water supply from a source containing wild coarse fish, with the consequent risk of transfer of infection during the periods between routine disease checks at the farm and the attendant risk of infection in the relevant consignments of fish exported to this country. Nor is there any lessening of the risk that an unscrupulous dealer could add to his approved and certified consignment, between fish farm and coast, wild fish from some other source, or fish from an uncertified farm, knowing it is unlikely that the Customs at the port of entry to U.K. will detect the addition of extra fish or be able to differentiate between certified and uncertified fish. There will be no real evidence that the fish which have been imported are from the same stock which was tested, and on which the issue of a health certificate depends.
9. A Water Authority has power under Section 10 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, 1972, to refuse consent for the introduction of any fish into waters within its area but once imported fish are in this country, it is virtually impossible to prevent their introduction into any water because their origin cannot be determined. On scientific grounds there appears to be a case for recommending an approach by the national Water Council to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to seek a total ban on the importation of all live freshwater fish, as has long applied in the case of live salmonids. In the view of the Regional Fisheries Officer it is altogether illogical to ban the import of salmonids because of the risk of introducing diseases, yet, at the same time, to permit the import of coarse fish which may carry those same diseases.
10. Clearly, such a prohibition on imports would result in a situation where the demand for live coarse fish for stocking angling waters - a demand which has increased greatly in recent years - could no longer be met from imports, nor could it, in most cases, be met from local resources in this country. This would be likely to lead to a period of some years during which coarse fish would be in short supply. Ultimately, however, private enterprise and Water Authorities should overcome this shortage. It must, however, be questionable whether the imposition of such a ban could be justified, without the ability to provide alternative supplies of fish to replace imports from the Continent, so that alternative sources of supply - be they fish farms or stock pools - should be urgently considered.

11. The Regional Fisheries Officer has already suggested that the whole question of imports of Continental coarse fish, and their possible impact upon native stocks, should be considered at a meeting of Fisheries Members and Fisheries Officers which is to be held at the office of the National Water Council in London at the end of April. In the meantime, however, the matter is being brought to the attention of this Committee for information as to the current position.